

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 17 has been amended by incorporating subject matter of claim 28 into it.

Claims 18-29 have been amended accordingly, making these claims method claims depending from claim 17 as amended.

Claims 30-33 have been canceled.

Claims 17-29 and 34 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 17-22, 24 and 26-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. patent application publication no. 2005/0090611 ("Huffer"), claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Huffer in view of U.S. patent 6,677,293 ("Allgaier"), and claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Huffer in view of U.S. patent application publication no. 2004/0171759 ("Lange"). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim 17 has been amended by incorporating subject matter from claim 28 into it, and the remaining claims have been amended in accordance with this amendment. Given that claim 28 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been rendered moot, and that these rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based upon Huffer, Huffer neither teaches nor suggests the invention methods of stabilizing an emulsion or increasing the efficiency of a surfactant in an emulsion, particularly a microemulsion. Stated another way, Huffer would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the required amphiphilic polymer in combination with a surfactant in an amount sufficient to stabilize an emulsion and/or in an amount sufficient to increase surfactant efficiency in an emulsion – Huffer neither teaches, suggests, nor recognizes that the required amphiphilic polymers could be

added to emulsions, particularly microemulsions, in amounts sufficient to effect the desired results.

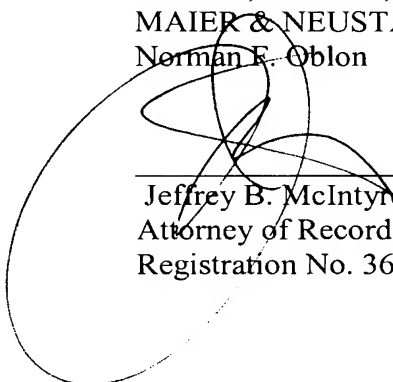
The significance of Huffer's failures is demonstrated in the examples of the present application. The examples demonstrate that the claimed amphiphilic polymers significantly increase the efficiency of surfactants in emulsions (by demonstrating the shifting of the X point when using the claimed compounds). Again, nothing in Huffer teaches or suggests the claimed compounds having significantly improved stabilizing or surfactant efficiency increasing properties, nor would Huffer lead one of ordinary skill in the art in this direction.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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